

Message Text

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21 11

ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CG-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-15 L-03

NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-15 SPC-03 INT-08

HEW-08 H-03 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DOTE-00 JUSE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195047

E. O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: SENV, PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICO

REF: (A) STATE 192968; (B) 161010

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE U. S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT EMBASSY TAKE UP WITH FONOFF MATTER OF GREEN/MURRAY DISCUSSIONS IN EL PASO TO OBTAIN GREATER CLARIFICATION OF MEXICAN INTENTIONS AND MOST SUITABLE MANNER OF EXPANDING U. S.-MEXICO COOPERATION ON BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

2. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO FONOFF THAT, AT THIS STAGE, WE BELIEVE BEST PROCEDURE WOULD BE TO CREATE GROUP WITH
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SUB-GROUPS CONSISTING OF APPROPRIATE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND

APPROPRIATE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO WOULD MEET WITH THEIR MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS TO ASSESS POLLUTION PROBLEMS ON THE BOUNDARY, AND CONSIDER PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEASURES UNDER WAY TO CONTROL THEM. GROUPS WOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS OR INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE NEEDED IN FUTURE TO MAINTAIN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND OTHER CONTINUING CONTACTS TO DEAL WITH BORDER POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

3. WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE IF AGENCY-TO-AGENCY, E. G., EPA - MEXICAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH, INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT. HOWEVER, IF GOM SEEKING BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, PLEASE ADVISE, TOGETHER WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER GOM SEEKING BUILD CASE AGAINST U. S. FOR ALLEGED ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE TO MEXICO OR WHETHER MURRAY INITIATIVE IS BONA FIDE EFFORT TO ENGAGE IN CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

4. WITH RESPECT TO OIL SPILLS AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES CONTINGENCY PLANNING, OFFER TO GOM CONTAINED IN REF. (B) STILL STANDS, AND TEAM PREPARED VISIT MEXICO IN LATE NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS. PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE195047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCBLACKISTON:NPS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KISSINGER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731058/aaaabqyx.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SCI
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 192968; (B) 161010
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICO
TAGS: SCUL, PBOR, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005